

Claims

1 1. A system for exchanging automotive information between at least two
2 automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising:
3 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;
4 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the trading
5 partners; and
6 a transaction management system for managing the transaction elements.

1 2. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising a
2 mapping system for mapping a transaction element, wherein the mapping system
3 determines: a source of the transaction element, an application to which the
4 transaction element is regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element
5 should be routed.

1 3. The automotive information exchange system of claim 2, further comprising a
2 translation system for translating a schema of the transaction element between a
3 proprietary schema and the universal schema.

1 4. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a data management system for providing localized data to the trading
3 partners;
4 a security system for controlling access to the automotive information
5 exchange system; and
6 an administrative system for managing the automotive information
7 exchange system.

1 5. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, wherein a first
2 trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the
3 automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes
4 the transaction element to a second trading partner.

1 6. The automotive information exchange system of claim 5, wherein the second
2 trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction
3 element to the automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing
4 system routes the response element to the first trading partner.

1 7. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the first and
2 second trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive
3 manufacturer, a automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an
4 automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an
5 automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 8. The automotive information exchange system of claim 7, wherein the
2 transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive
3 application selected from the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive
4 sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration,
5 automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting.

1 9. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the
2 transaction element and the response transaction element contain transaction data
3 pertaining to a predetermined automotive application.

1 10. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the
2 automotive information exchange system translates the transaction element from
3 a proprietary schema of the first trading partner to the universal schema and then
4 to a proprietary schema of the second trading partner, and wherein the automotive
5 information exchange system translates the response transaction element from the
6 proprietary schema of the second trading partner to the universal schema and then
7 to the proprietary schema of the first trading partner.

1 11. A method for exchanging automotive information between at least two
2 automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 sending a transaction element from a first automotive trading partner to an
5 automotive information exchange system, wherein the transaction element relates
6 to an automotive application;

7 routing the transaction element to a second automotive trading partner;

8 sending a response transaction element from the second automotive
9 trading partner to the automotive information exchange system; and

10 routing the response transaction element to the first automotive trading
11 partner.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 mapping the transaction element and the response transaction element
3 with a mapping system;

4 managing the transaction element and the response transaction element
5 with a transaction management system; and

6 securing the automotive information exchange system with a security
7 system.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 translating the transaction element from a first proprietary schema to the
3 universal schema and then from the universal schema to a second proprietary
4 schema.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising translating the response
2 transaction element from the second proprietary schema to the universal schema
3 and then from the universal schema to the first proprietary schema.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction element and the response
2 transaction element are in a universal schema.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second automotive trading
2 partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a
3 automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending
4 provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance
5 provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction element and the response
2 transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group
3 consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive
4 insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty,
5 and credit reporting.

1 18. A program product stored on a recordable media for exchanging automotive
2 information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in an
3 automotive transaction, which when executed, comprises:

4 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;

5 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the trading
6 partners; and

7 a transaction management system for managing the transaction elements.

1 19. The program product of claim 18, further comprising a first trading partner
2 that includes a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the automotive
3 information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the
4 transaction element to a second trading partner.

1 20. The program product of claim 19, wherein the second trading partner
2 comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the
3 automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes
4 the response element to the first trading partner.

1 21. The program product of claim 20, wherein the first and second trading
2 partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a
3 automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending
4 provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance
5 provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 22. The program product of claim 21, wherein the transaction element and the
2 response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from
3 the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service,
4 automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive
5 warranty, and credit reporting.

1 23. The program product of claim 18, further comprising a mapping system for
2 mapping a transaction element, wherein the mapping system determines: a source
3 of the transaction element, an application to which the transaction element is
4 regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element should be routed.

1 24. The program product of claim 23, further comprising a translation system for
2 translating a schema of the transaction element between a proprietary schema and
3 the universal schema.

1 25. The program product of claim 24, further comprising:

2 a data management system for providing localized data to the trading
3 partners;

4 a security system for controlling access to the automotive information
5 exchange system; and

6 an administrative system for managing the automotive information
7 exchange system.

END

1 26. A computer system for exchanging automotive information between at least
2 two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction,
3 comprising:
4 a processor;
5 a computer system memory;
6 an interface; and
7 a software product stored on the computer system memory and executable
8 by the processor, wherein the software product comprises:
9 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;
10 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the
11 trading partners; and
12 a transaction management system for managing the transaction
13 elements.

1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising a first trading partner that includes
2 a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the automotive information
3 exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the transaction element
4 to a second trading partner.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the second trading partner comprises a
2 mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the automotive
3 information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the response
4 element to the first trading partner.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the first and second trading partners are
2 selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a automotive
3 parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a
4 credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider,
5 and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the transaction element and the response
2 transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group
3 consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive
4 insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty,
5 and credit reporting.